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Fulbright Sees Peril In Pentagon's Power

Senator Warns Against Letting Defense Department Dominate Foreign Policy

Washington, Oct. 24 (AP)—Senator Fulbright (D., Ark.) said today the Defense Department exercises "tremendous power" in shaping foreign policy and has great influence with President Johnson.

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee then cautioned against this power becoming dominant in shaping foreign policy.

He said also the Central Intelligence Agency should not have a strong voice in policy because "the CIA is supposed to be intelligence not an operating agency" in foreign affairs.

For Longer Lull

Fulbright said he feels the four-day suspension of bombings in North Vietnam last spring was too short. He renewed his recommendation that bombings be suspended for a more "reasonable length of time" to see if this could contribute toward bringing negotiations for settlement of the conflict.

Fulbright did not say what he regards as a reasonable time, but it is believed he is thinking in terms of a few weeks, rather than the lull of four or five days that came last May.

Speaking on NBC's television-radio program, "Meet the Press," Fulbright said the Defense Department has very strong influence throughout the country because of its huge budget. He noted that even in his own State,

traditionally considered rural, this influence is being felt.

And he termed Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense, "a man of great persuasive powers."

Fulbright said he wants to make it clear that President Johnson is running this country's foreign policy, but there is no doubt the Defense Department had great influence.

"Because of the enormous amount of business they (Defense Department) do, this is a tremendous power they have, and we have to be very careful it isn't a dominant one."

Fulbright defended his right to criticize Administration foreign policy, such as the intervention in the Dominican Republic.

Silencers Deplored

"But," he complained, "this country's gotten to the point where if you speak out, people jump down your throat."

He again criticized the advice given the President on the extent of Communist involvement in the Dominican Republic revolution and the need for United States intervention.

"The President had to act" in this fast-breaking situation, Fulbright said, "he had to depend on the facts as he knew them then."

But Fulbright said much advice given the President was exaggerated.

"They told him many exaggerated stories," Fulbright said, "such as 1,500 people having their heads cut off."

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